



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of	)	
Kenji Yokoyama et al.	)	Group Art Unit: 3762
Application No.: 09/997,171	)	Examiner: LESLIE R DEAK
Filed: November 30, 2001	)	Confirmation No.: 4542
For: BLOOD RESERVOIR	)	

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The Notice of Allowability recently issued in connection with the above-identified application was accompanied by an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. The Statement indicates that the prior art does not teach or suggest the claimed subject matter, including "a blood reservoir with separate vented blood and suctioned blood inlets and filtering units wherein the vented blood does not contact the suctioned blood, along with the other steps and limitations of the claims."

Applicants do not agree with the comments in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance at least to the extent they imply that the allowed independent claims in this application set forth the verbatim language mentioned in the Statement. For example, the independent claims do not recite that the vented blood does not contact the suctioned blood. Rather, independent Claim 14 recites in relevant part that the vented blood flowing in through the vented blood inlet passes through the vented blood filtering member without contacting the antifoaming agent and foreign substances filtered off from the suctioned blood. Independent Claim 27 recites in

relevant part that the vented blood flowing into the housing passes through the filtering member without contacting foreign substances filtered off from the suctioned blood. Independent Claim 28 similarly does not include any recitation regarding the absence of contact between the vented blood and the suctioned blood, but rather recites that vented blood introduced into the vented blood filtering chamber by way of the vented blood inlet does not include suctioned blood suctioned from outside the heart.

Thus, the comments in the Statement should not be interpreted to mean that the allowed claims in this application recite anything different from that which the claims themselves set forth.

Should the Examiner disagree in any way with the comments set forth above, the undersigned respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: April 29, 2005

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